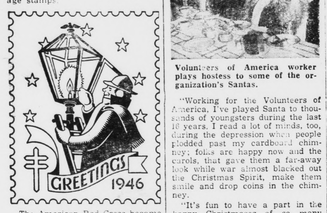
Greatest Stamps Of Entire World

Officials estimate at least 109,000 lives are saved each year—in America alone—by funds made available by the annual Christmas Seal campaign against tuberculosis.

In 1903, a Danish postal clerk—Einar Holboell, by name—conceived the idea of a voluntary tax on Christmas greeting cards which would benefit the underprivileged. Specifically, Holboell visualized establishment of a fund to build a hospital for tubercular children. The ministry granted Holboell permission to sell his seals at post offices and the Christmas Seal campaign was launched. In many countries, the seal campaign is conducted largely in co-operation with postal authorities and, in some instances, the seals are parts of special postage stamps.



The American Red Cross became interested in the project in 1907 and co-operated with the National Tuberculosis association. To strengthen the nation-wide campaign, the Red Cross and the Tuberculosis association jointly conducted the sale of the seals and, until 1919, the emblem of the Red Cross appeared on the seal.

In 1919, the double-barred cross, international emblem and trade-mark of the warfare against tuberculosis, was embodied in the design of the seal. In 1920, the Red Cross wished to devote its energies to the annual Roll Call and arrangements were made whereby the sale of the tuberculosis Christmas Seal is conducted exclusively by the Tuberculosis association.

A Volunteer Santa Speaks His Heart

"I know what it is to be a disappointed kid on Christmas morning—

"I always wanted a boat, but my folks were poor and I never got one — that's why I became Santa Claus, I guess.

Volunteers of America worker plays hostess to some of the organization's Santas.

"Working for the Volunteers of America, I've played Santa to thousands of youngsters during the last 10 years. I read a lot of minds, too. During the depression when people plodded past my cardboard chimney; folks are happy now and the carols, that gave them a far-away look while war almost blacked out the Christmas Spirit, make them smile and drop coins in the chimney.

"It's fun to have a part in the happy Christmases of so many youngsters. Most of those that I see come downtown with their mothers, and I try to get a note of appreciation before I make any of the promises — kinda make sure the kids won't be disappointed.

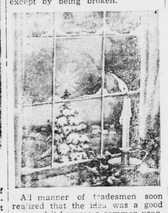
"Just the same, I can't help thinking about the kids I never see who want dolls, red dishes, drums and sleds, picture books, skates, trains and boats; what a lot of helpers Santa needs to see that all these things get to the right places at the right time!

"Wish we could be sure there will be no broken hearts this Christmas."

Stassen says will be a liberal candidate for GOP nomination.

Romans Started Christmas Boxes

Boxing day has been a day of gifts to public servants since Roman times. It originated as a pagan custom, for the Romans observed the rite during their winter feast of Saturnalia. Later, when the people became Christians, the gifts were handed during Mass to the priests, who placed them into boxes. The feast was then known as Christ's Mass and the boxes as Christmas boxes, not to be opened except by being broken.



All manner of tradesmen soon realized that the idea was a good one, and it became a common practice for apprentices and others to take a box round to their business acquaintances, singing carols the while.

By the time Pepys wrote his famous diary, Christmas boxes were well established, and he mentions them several times in his writings. Swift also has a word to say about them in his "Journal to Stella," written in 1710; "By the Lord Harry, I shall be undone here with Christmas boxes."

One public servant, the "bellman," who enjoyed the privilege of soliciting Christmas boxes, was in some respects the forerunner of the postman, often being commissioned to deliver letters. At the approach of Christmas he would push poems of his own composition under the doors of townsmen whom he had served. They were reminders that recognition was expected on Boxing Day.

Many Are the Legends of Ancient Yule Log Customs

Old books and legends surround the Yule Log with much mystery and superstition.

Thus, it must be touched and lighted with scrupulously clean hands; certain types of persons—such as squinting or flatfooted—are unwelcome while it is burning and, should the fire go out during the night, bad luck is portended for the New Year.

Less superstitiously, Tyroleans decorate their Log with paper flowers and bright ribbons. Wine is poured over it by the youngest child of the household who offers a prayer that the fire may warm the cold, the hungry obtain food, the weary find rest, and all may enjoy heaven's blessing and peace.

Southern Customs Have Remained at Christmas

Negro families of Virginia have their own traditional method of gift-giving.

On Christmas Eve a large sheet is spread over the dining room table with a box placed here and there to raise the sheet above table level. Each member of the household writes his name on a slip of paper and pins it to the sheet.

Gifts are sneaked in during the night and placed under the names of the persons for whom they are intended; even the youngest children forbear to "snoop" until the morning and removal of the sheet reveals all the presents.

Years ago, eggnog was served while breakfast was being prepared—such a breakfast that no one paid much attention to Christmas dinner. When friends dropped in, everyone had something to eat so that families just sort of "pieced" all day.

Favored Ash Yule Log

The Yule log, which used to be part of every home on Christmas, was nearly always an ash log, because the legend avers that it was before an ash fire that the Holy Babe was first washed and dressed by his mother.

Family Christmas Held in Germany

Christmas is a family affair in Germany and preparations begin well in advance of the holiday.

The Advent Wreath is hung on the first Sunday in Advent. This large wreath has one red candle to begin with: an additional candle is added each Sunday until Christmas and paper stars are added daily. The stars are inscribed with Bible passages which are memorized by the children of the household.

Everyone occupies precious moments making gifts for loved ones; perhaps a soap rose, a paperweight, toys for the younger children, an embroidered handkerchief or table cover: there are dozens of cookies and special cakes to be baked and everything must be finished the day before Christmas — stores and restaurants are closed, too—so that servants and tradespeople may spend Christmas Eve with their families.

After church services on Christmas Eve, one of the family goes into the parlor—where the Christmas tree has been set up and decorated with ornaments treasured from year to year. At the first notes of "O Tannebaum," the whole family rushes in and gathers around the tree; several familiar carols are sung, and then the presents are distributed.

Sometimes Christmann — Father Christmas—joins the festivities and asks each child to say a verse; correct recitations are awarded by Christmann from pockets bulging with goodies and trinkets.

Vet and 4 Germans hanged in Canada for murder.

Nine bodies found in Flint River.

Lincoln Issued Famous Emancipation January 1.

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by Abraham Lincoln on New Year's Day, 1863.

The Proclamation abolished slavery in those states and parts of states which were in rebellion on that date and, though other days are observed in various parts of the country, January 1 is the date most generally observed as Emancipation Day.

French Celebrate New Year's

The famous "Jour de l'An"—New Year's Day—is probably the gayest day in the calendar of the French-Canadian. That is the time of family reunions and of exchanging gifts.

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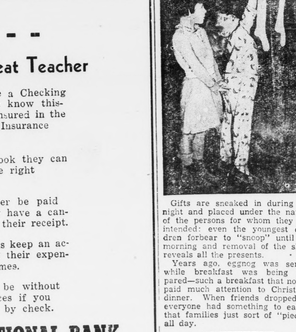

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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A Live Weekly Newspaper at Historic Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Established 1892.

VOLUME NUMBER 52 APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA THURSDAY DECEMBER 26, 1946 $1.00 PER YEAR: COPY 5¢

Greetings from The Times - Virginian

FATHER DARKLEAF

By The Editor

Christmas we can recall Appomattox without lots of fun. We always felt that those shoot firecrackers, the day was the Fourth of July than Christmas.

Marshall tells us that his had his boy a present and to give Santa Claus. The that Santa gives presents only, and that somebody for Him a present.

day that one day during rush at the local post late train came in with a of mail and they had to boxholders came in the ing to empty their box- they would hold more way, we think patrons of office, and post offices me, owe a vote of thanks employees for the fine rendered.

Darkleaf has crossed an- estone. Another birthday Saturday. The data was the birthday of Joe the ages are not equal.

Darkleaf and Mother extend the Season's to each of you... and we YOU.

Merry Holiday Season Being Spent Here

One of the largest crowds of shoppers ever in Appomattox was in town last Saturday, and filled local streets and stores. A feature of the day was the appearance of Santa Claus during the afternoon. He was roundly greeting by several hundred children, and Santa responded by handing out bags of Christmas candy. This feature was sponsored by the local Lions Club. Santa was brought into town by a special State Police escort.

Christmas lights were installed along Main Street to add to the holiday appearance of the town.

After the greeting of Santa, a hundred or more children saw a movie at the Lee Theatre through the courtesy of the management.

The days just before Christmas saw perhaps the heaviest volume of mail on record pass through the Appomattox post office.

Ask Farmers To File ACA Crop Reports

farmers of Appomattox County who have carried out soil building practices approved for payment under the 1946 Agricultural Conservation Program should report to the county office at Appomattox as soon as possible, says W. T. Nash, chairman of the County ACA Committee. Most of these practices have been completed in the county, he said, in urging the farmers to report promptly. The closing date for carrying out practices is December 31, and regulations require that all reports must be filed by February 15, 1947, in order to be eligible for payment.

It is estimated that 75 per cent of the $40,000.00 allocated to the county for this work has been earned by the farmers, either through grant-or-aid materials such as lime and phosphate, or through practices eligible for direct payments.

As grant-of-aid materials for use in building and conserving the soils, farmers in Appomattox County in 1946 have received 6,331 tons of ground limestone and 684 tons of phosphate. According to county office figures, about 80 per cent of these materials have been reported as properly used. Since all the materials must be accounted for, Mr. Nash pointed out that it is to the farmer's advantage to use them and report at the earliest opportunity. Such reports should be made at the county office,which is open from 8:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M., Monday through Friday, and until noon on Saturdays.

VA. DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DECLINE

In spite of reduction in deaths from tuberculosis in Virginia, this disease is today one of the major health problems in the Old Dominion, said Dr. L. J. Roper in a statement praising the work of the Virginia Tuberculosis Association.

"Throughout the years, the combined and integrated efforts of physicians, and of state and local public and private health agencies,have resulted in marked reduction in cases and deaths from tuberculosis," said Dr. Roper.

Large number of building projects are going on in Appomattox.

Banks will be closed for New Year's Day.

Drive with extra care over the holiday week-end.

NEW YEAR'S DANCE

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will sponsor a dance at Club Appo next Wednesday night.

U. S. Has Deficit of 300 Millions First Four Months

WASHINGTON.—Treasury figures showed the federal government finished the first four months of the current fiscal year with a deficit of $300,241,791.

Late October spending wiped out a surplus established early in the month, topping receipts from taxes by $420,148,049.

The deficit on October 31 was reported as $263,917,666,707, but that did not take into account a $2,000,000,000 cash redemption of securities maturing November 1.

British Private Trade in Rubber Will Be Restored

LONDON.—Secretary H. P. Marquand of the board of trade's overseas trade department said Britain would restore private trading in rubber and permit re-establishment of the London rubber market.

Marquand said this would permit private traders to import rubber after January 1 and that the board of trade would cease to purchase rubber then.

Invents Ice-Fishing Boat, Keeps Fishers From Ducking

BUFFALO, N. Y.—John A. Willis, 102, has added another invention, an ice-fishing boat, to 90 years of tinkering.

The boat has an opening in the middle surrounded by a 10-inch wall.

"The fisherman can place this over the hole they cut in the ice," Willis explained. "If the ice breaks, they will be afloat—not struggling in freezing water."

18-Year-Olds st Register

Young men reaching their eighteenth birthday were warned again today by Colonel Joel D. Griffing, State Director of Selective Service, that the draft law is still in effect and that they must register with their Local Selective Service Board.

Asserting that reports from local boards reveal serious neglect in some areas regarding draft registration, Colonel Griffing announced a program of publicly posting the names of all men who have registered. All citizens will be asked to aid in bringing the requirements of the law to the attention of young men becoming eighteen.

Think You Have Housing Troubles? Read These

FALL CITY, NEB.—W. H. Harter, federal forester for southeast Nebraska, can testify to the trouble housing shortage can lead to.

His office is in Humboldt, Neb., he gets his mail at Dawson, Neb., his telephone calls come through the Verdon, Neb., exchange, his frozen food locker is at Table Rock, Neb., and he lives in a farm house midway between Dawson and Verdon.

The shortest round trip is 48 miles.

Latest count on casualties in the Japanese earthquake reaches 2,700.

French seizes main streets in Hanoi.

American troop ship ordered to vacate Russo-occupied port.

Quadruplets born in Baltimore.

Lions Club Endorses Teacher Pay Increase

LATIN CLUB NEWS

The Civitas Romans (Latin Club) celebrated the Feast of the Saturnalia on the Ides of December (dec. 13).Since the Saturnalia falls at to Christmas season, a Christmas program was given and carols sung in Latin. Gifts were exchanged, which was also a custom of the Saturnalian Festival.

Other features of the program were the installation of the newly elected officers and the manumission of the slaves (new members.) The club will hold its next meeting in February, when an appropriate day in the Roman calendar will be celebrated.

—Bryon Babcock (Nuntius) (Reporter).

17 Christian Names Made Him 'Most Named' Man in America

SEATTLE. — Funeral services were held recently for an 82-year-old Seattle pioneer whose 17 Christian names gave him the longest officially recorded name in America.

His father had him christened with the surnames of 17 officers of his Civil war regiment.

Known as William Cary, the retired painter and decorator was christened:

Oscar William Free Omlis Fitz Allen John Donpedro Ali Fonlas Mell Tore Gustafson Tittle Tuttle Step Carl Cary.

Stalin's heath reported to be improved.

At its meeting last Thursday night, the Appomattox Lions Club adopted resolutions urging that the special session of the General Assembly of Virginia called for January, take steps to raise teacher salaries. The resolution:

"Be it resolved by the Lions Club of Appomattox, assembled at their regular bi-monthly meeting December 19, 1946, that this Club urges and recommends that the request of the Virginia State Educational Association for the appropriation of at least six million dollars by the special session of the General Assembly of Virginia be complied with by that body.

"It is further resolved that a copy of this resolution be mailed to Hon. William M. Tuck, Governor of Virginia; Hon. Charles T. Moses, representing this district in the State Senate; and Hon. John B. Boatwright, representing this district in the House of Delegates, and that the gentlemen be urged to exert their every effort towards the appropriation of at least six million dollars to be paid the teachers of Virginia as additional compensation during the present school year. And further that a copy of this resolution be published in the Times-Virginian.

Try a Classified Ad.

Army finds cost of occupation is heavier than planned.

Number of committee in new Congress to be reduced.